



ER 5-7337

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Copy No. 1 of 9

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

JUN 23 1954

RD-123/16

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Information on Soviet BW Activities.

1. The recent intensive propaganda drive of the USSR and Red China in the BW field has served to heighten our fears that the USSR is making preparations of some magnitude for the waging of biological warfare and for defense against it. However, we know too little to judge the extent to which these fears are justified. For example, the recent report, "Soviet Biological Warfare Capabilities through 1960", prepared for this office, states that our knowledge does not provide positive or conclusive proof of the existence, scope, or magnitude of the Soviet BW program, and therefore, that the existence rests "largely on indirect factors". The Director, Central Intelligence Agency, in a memorandum dated October 1952, had advised the Secretary of Defense that the defense agencies did not desire to raise the priority for covert collection of BW intelligence at that time since this would compete with other collection requirements then established by the Department of Defense as vital to early warning responsibilities.

2. A revised statement of our specific intelligence requirements for guidance of the research and development program in the BW field, forwarded to the Chairman of the Scientific Estimates Committee on 11 June 1954, contains requirements that can be met only by direct positive information. The question thus arises as to how the requirements for BW intelligence are to be met. I will welcome your advice on steps that will be feasible and can be undertaken to increase the flow of specific information revealing actual Soviet activities and plans in the BW field.

Sincerely yours,

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

*Donald A. Quarles*  
Donald A. Quarles

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 793 and 794, the transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.



Document No. 29  
Review of this document by CIA has determined that

- ☐ CIA has no objection to declass
- ☐ It contains information of CIA interest that must remain
- Authority: HR 70-2
- ☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

Date 140481 Reviewer

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

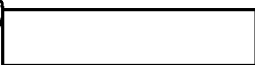
SUSPENSE: 8 July 1954

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	DD/I		2 1954
2	<del>AD/I</del>		
3	DD/I		
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Assistant to the Director		1 July
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

Remarks: For preparation of reply for DCI signature.

  
RWF

③  has been on the trail of this ltr for prep. of reply all day.

(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	DCI		
2			
3			
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	AD/CD		1 July
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

Remarks: